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**ABSTRACT**

A communication system constructed according to the present invention provides a method and apparatus for causing a message to be played to a calling party to indicate that the called party will be taking the call shortly. In each embodiment, a called party depresses a select key or button in a specified manner to indicate that the message should be played to the calling party. The method may be performed by anyone of an SS7 or other IN network, a wireless network, a mobile station or a wireline phone. According to the type of phone, differing embodiments of the methods performed by the communication network may be realized. In the case of a mobile station, the entire method may be performed by it in one embodiment of the invention. Alternatively, if the phone is a wireline phone, the method may be performed solely by the wireline telephone network.